"Adopt and Adapt: Shaping Tech for the Classroom" by Marc Prensky

"First, consult the students. They are far ahead of their educators in terms of taking advantage of digital technology and using it to their advantage. We cannot, no matter how hard we try or how smart we are (or think we are), invent the future education of our children for them. The only way to move forward effectively is to combine what they know about technology with what we know and require about education. Sadly, in most cases, no one asks for their opinion."

This quote really struck home with me. Last year was my first year as a teacher in the public schools. In trying to develop an approach to my classes, I would often refer back to when I was in high school. At that time the most advanced technology was the overhead projector. Teachers were the "wizards". They possessed all the knowledge, and we learned what they knew. I felt if I was only going to teach what I knew, my classes might not last more than a couple of weeks. So, on day one I humbled myself and confessed to my students that I did not possess all the knowledge that they needed to learn in order to pass the class. We are going to learn together. We will all be teachers and we will all be learners. I was totally amazed at how the students took ownership of the class. They all felt that they had a responsibility to see that everyone learned, including me. By the end of the school year, I was totally amazed at how much progress we had all made. Every student contributed to the learning process.

It is my second year and I feel much more comfortable with my content, but I have not changed the direction of my classes. I have been told that the best way to learn something is to teach it, so why not let the students be teachers. It really is all about learning. The students have a say, and I am learning right along with them.

I totally agree with you. It is amazing how much students know and the information they possess. They are just waiting and wanting you to ask for it. Teaching Kindergarten, you wouldn't think that they would know much about technology and much less the information it holds, but there will always be the few who do and will teach you something new about it. I am constantly asking my own children, at home, certain technological things and they are enthused with the fact that they are actually teaching me something. So, asking their opinion and inquiring about the information they know will go hand in hand with the information we are wantiing to give back. I love that quote!

Let me begin in this way, ‘students are technologically savvy”, you have to wonder, where do they get their insight from? Being a math teacher at high school, ever fall semester when I introduce my 9th graders to the graphing calculator, it is amazing how many of them are able to manipulate the graphing calculator and find the different games that are available on them.   
Student so often suggest ideas to me and to each other while we are on the computer activities in class.

The teaching and learning area of the STaR Chart talks about this very thing and all throughout the article that we were asked to read we are finding examples of students learning technology through their games at home, cellphones, texting and interacting with other student. In my classroom I have students that used application software prior to my class that have a very good technoical understanding of how to solve problem. I can truly say I have learned a few things from my students.

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I would have to agree with you also Jack. We are not as smart as we pretend to be. Just the other day my daughter had to do a powerpoint presentation for class. I was asking here all kinds of questions on how she got the graphics, audi and different colors. She was patient enough to explain step by step. When I walked away, I laughed and said, she has only been in the world 14yrs and I have been here 45 yrs. she is smarter than her mother.  
  
Technology would be an excellent way to incorporate lessons and projects in the classroom becasue most of the students are already familiar with doing different tasks on the computer. Unlike me, technology is getting up to speed, I just need to catch up to it.

I wouldn't survive without my students' savvy technology tips and hands on application help. Not mentioning my age, but believe me when I say that in high school we didn't even have computers. (Do you know what a slide rule is?) Anyway, I really enjoyed your comments and also concur that students love to teach the teacher. In my classroom I'm constantly stretching my limit with technology projects, be it creating flowcharts, WebQuests, or movies. These are the things the kids love. Nedrah probably said it best, "...the students are already familiar with doing different tasks....I just need to catch up...".

Jack, I totally agree with this quote. I taught a high school Business Management class last year and after each unit, students in groups of 3 or 4 taught the class on an assigned section of the unit. Each group was very innovative in the teaching methods presented. The groups had to provide lesson plans, interactive activities, reviews and a powerpoint presentation. This method was very successful because students were able to critique other students with a rubric and I used each group's section lesson for review for the unit test. My students enjoyed this assignment, as Jack mentioned, they took ownership of the class and felt they were responsible.

Summary: I am glad I am not alone in this idea. I must confess I have been reading ahead and I have read several articles in the chapter 3 assignment. WOW!! It is all tying together. We really are no longer "teachers" , but "facilitators of learning". We simple guide the students paths. They are learning, for the most part, on their own. They are the "natives" in technology, and we are the immigrants. I am anxious to carry on to the chapter 3 readings. We(teachers) have so much to learn. Thanks for all your responses.